U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/594,149

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A map information display control device, comprising:

a map information acquirer which acquires map information;

an information acquirer which acquires <u>a plurality of</u> map component information forming the map information [[with]]<u>, the plurality of map component information respectively representing</u> at least one of traffic information relating to a traffic status or feature information relating to a feature;

a time information acquirer which acquires <u>a</u> time ~~information relating to a time when~~ <u>at which</u> the <u>plurality of</u> map component information <u>is acquired by the information acquirer</u> ~~is acquired~~ <u>or generated to be contained in the plurality of map component information, the time being set as a start time</u>;

a timer which counts an elapsed time <u>from the start time</u> up to a current time<u>;</u> ~~based on the time information;~~ and

a display controller which controls a display unit to display the map information <u>and the plurality of map component information, one of the plurality of map component information of which the elapsed time exceeds a predetermined time period being displayed with</u> ~~and to superpose the map component information relating to the elapsed time having exceeded a predetermined time period on the map information in~~ a display pattern with higher transparency than <u>the other of the plurality</u> of [[the]] map component information ~~relating to~~ <u>of which</u> the elapsed time ~~not having~~ <u>has not</u> exceeded the predetermined time period.

Claims 2 - 5 (canceled)

-2-

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/594,149

Claim 6 (currently amended): The map information display control device according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein the display controller changes the display pattern of the ~~one of the plurality~~ ~~of~~ map component information ~~of the information relating to the elapsed time having exceeded~~ ~~the predetermined time period.~~

Claim 7 (currently amended): The map information display control device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a map information storage which stores the map information; and

an information storage which can store plural pieces of information, in each piece each of the plurality of map component information and the time ~~information~~ at which the each of the plurality of map component information is generated being associated.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): The map information display control device according to claim 7, wherein the information storage stores the ~~plural pieces of~~ plurality of map component information by associating unique identification information with each type of the plurality of map component information.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): The map information display control device according to claim [[7]] 9, wherein when the information acquirer acquires [[the]] updated map component

–3–

information of which ~~same~~ unique identification information ~~as one of~~ is identical with the

unique identification information associated with one of the stored ~~plural pieces of~~ plurality of

map component information, the information storage conducts an updating by replacing the one

of the stored ~~plural pieces of~~ plurality of map component information with ~~one piece of~~ the

updated map component information. ~~associated with the time information corresponding to the~~

~~same map component information.~~

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): The map information display control device according to

claim 11, wherein when recognizing the updating, the display controller displays the updated

map component information ~~relating to the replaced information~~ in a different pattern from the

other of the plurality of map component information.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): The map information display control device according to

claim 1, wherein the display controller displays the plurality of map component information such

that a difference in transparency becomes large as the elapsed time becomes long.

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (currently amended): A map information display control-system comprising:

−4−

a map information display control device; and

a terminal unit which is connected to the map information display control device via a network in a data transmittable manner, the terminal unit including the display unit which displays the map information, wherein

the map information display control device includes:

a map information acquirer which acquires map information;

an information acquirer which acquires a plurality of map component information forming the map information [[with]], the plurality of map component information respectively representing at least one of traffic information relating to a traffic status or feature information relating to a feature;

a time information acquirer which acquires a time ~~information relating to a time when~~ at which the plurality of map component information is acquired by the information acquirer ~~is acquired~~ or generated to be contained in the plurality of map component information, the time being set as a start time;

a timer which counts an elapsed time from the start time up to a current time; ~~based on the time information;~~ and

a display controller which controls a display unit to display the map information and the plurality of map component information, one of the plurality of map component information of which the elapsed time exceeds a predetermined time period being displayed with ~~and to superpose the map component information relating to the elapsed time having exceeded a predetermined time period on the map information in~~ a display pattern with higher transparency than the other of the plurality of [[the]] map component information ~~relating to~~ of which the elapsed time ~~not having~~ has not exceeded the predetermined time period.

-5-

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/594,149

Claim 18 (currently amended): A map information display control system, comprising:

a server including a storage storing map information, and a distributing unit distributing: a plurality of map component information forming the map information [[with]] representing at least one of traffic information relating to a traffic status or feature information relating to a feature; and time information relating to a time when the plurality of map component information is generated or distributed by an information distributor; and

a map information display control device which is connected to the server via a network in a data transmittable manner and controls the display unit to display the map information and the plurality of map component information, wherein

the map information display control device includes: a map information acquirer which acquires map information; an information acquirer which acquires the plurality of map component information ~~forming the map information with at least one of traffic information relating to a traffic status or feature information relating to a feature~~; a time information acquirer which acquires a time ~~information relating to a time when~~ at which the plurality of map component information is acquired by the information acquirer ~~is acquired~~ or generated to be contained in the plurality of map component information, the time being set as a start time; a timer which counts an elapsed time from the time up to a current time ~~based on the time information~~; and a display controller which controls a display unit to display the map information and the plurality of map component information, one of the plurality of map component information of which the elapsed time exceeds a predetermined time period being displayed with ~~and to superpose the map component information relating to the elapsed time having exceeded a predetermined time period on the map information in~~ a display pattern with higher transparency

-6-

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/594,149

than the other of the plurality of [[the]] map component information of which ~~relating to~~ the elapsed time ~~not having~~ has not exceeded the predetermined time period.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A map information display control method in which a computing unit controls a display unit to display map information, ~~wherein the computing unit acquires~~ comprising:

acquiring a plurality of map component information forming the map information [[with]] representing at least one of traffic information relating to a traffic status or feature information relating to a feature;

acquiring ~~and time information relating to~~ a time when the map component information is acquired and an elapsed time from the time up to a current time; and

~~controls, on recognizing that the acquired time information has exceeded the predetermined time period,~~ controlling the display unit to display ~~superpose~~ one of the plurality of map information of which the elapsed time exceeds a predetermined time period ~~corresponding to the time information on the map information~~ in a display pattern with higher transparency than the other of the plurality of map component information ~~corresponding to the time information not having~~ of which the elapsed time has not exceeded the predetermined time period.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A map information display control method in which a computing unit controls a display unit to display map information, ~~wherein the computing unit acquires~~ comprising:

-7-

acquiring a plurality of map component information forming the map information

[[with]] representing at least one of traffic information relating to a traffic status or feature information relating to a feature; and time information relating to

acquiring a time when the map component information is generated and an elapsed time from the time up to a current time; and

controls, on recognizing that the time information of the acquired information has exceeded the predetermined time period, controlling the display unit to superpose display one of the map component information of which the elapsed time exceeds a predetermined time period of the acquired information on the map information in a display pattern with higher transparency than the other of the plurality of map component information of which the elapsed time has not of the information including the time information not having exceeded the predetermined time period.

Claim 21 (new):   The map information display control device according to claim 1, wherein the map component information comprises an icon.